

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please insert the following Abstract:

**ABSTRACT**

The invention is directed to a heat integrated distillation column comprising a cylindrical shell having an upper and a lower end and at least one first inner volume and at least one second inner volume in the shell, and being in heat exchanging contact with each other through a wall separating the volumes, the improvement comprising providing means having heat exchanging capacity extending through the wall from the at least one first volume into the at least one second volume, whereby the inside of the the heat exchanging means is in open connection with the said first volume.